

# When Neighbors are Enemies

## Romans 12.14-21

*Focus: calling us to overcome evil with good by loving our enemies*

### Helpful Resources:

Here are two powerful videos related to ISIS:

(this is the one we showed in the services)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSv4vBcFyvo>

(this one is a series of interviews of those who fled ISIS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ2w-ZvAPwg>

John Piper has a number of helpful sermons on this passage. Here is one of them:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/do-not-avenge-yourself-but-give-place-to-wrath>

### Discussion

- Allow people to share a story of someone that they felt like would fall into the category of "enemy" (i.e. someone who is against them). Encourage them to keep their "actual enemies" in mind as you discuss this passage.
- Read Rom. 12.14-21. In your own words, what is Paul's "big idea" in this section?
- Make a list of all the positive commands Paul gives and another list of all the negative prohibitions he gives. Which one(s) are most challenging for you personally (especially in light of any enemy-ish relationships you may currently have). What makes this so very hard to obey?
- What supporting/strengthening teachings does Paul give that help us obey this idea of loving our enemies? Which one do you most need to cling to?
- What questions or "but-what-abouts" does this passage raise for you? Do any of those need to be addressed before you can obey this passage's main teaching about enemies?
- Spend time in prayer for those who are in enemy-like relationships. You may want to spend time in prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world who are being persecuted for their faith, too.

**2016 Annual**



**Priority:**

*To establish a greater devotion to believing and being shaped by the three great loves embedded in our mission statement's goal of becoming a mature and ministering worshiper of God; love for God, love for the church, and love of neighbor.*